

R E M A R K S

Applicants are preparing a substitute specification (including abstract, but not claims) incorporating extensive amendments to improve the form and clarity of expression, for submission in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.125, together with an accompanying drawing amendment. These amendments to the specification and drawing figures will be presented as soon as possible.

A number of the claims have been amended herein, again to improve their form and clarity, and other claims (including claims 24 - 26, to the nonelected apparatus invention) have been canceled, without prejudice to the scope of protection to which applicants are believed to be entitled. One new claim (27) to the elected invention has been added; this claim, like claims 1 - 23, is generically readable on the elected species. Since this Amendment does not increase either the total number of claims or the number of independent claims, no additional fee is necessary.

Claims 1 - 23 and 27 are in the application. No claim has been allowed.

Claims 1 - 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tsutsui et al. (JP 10-016409), with which Hotta et al. (EP 0 891 875 A2) is combined in the rejection of claims 16 - 20.

In response to this ground of rejection, applicants respectfully submit that (contrary to the Examiner's assertion), Tsutsui et al. does not disclose the linear hydrocarbon-containing compounds having a urethane bond (-NHCOO-) of the present invention, but the linear hydrocarbon-containing compounds having amide bond (-CONH-) or urea bond (-NHCONH-); see formulae (I)-(IV). Hotta et al., also, does not disclose the linear hydrocarbon-containing compounds having

urethane bond (-NHCOO-) of the present invention. Consequently, the references do not support the stated ground of the rejection.

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is accordingly courteously requested.

Respectfully,

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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